

HB13-1231

3/7/2013

Chair Beth McCann

Madam Chair, and Committee; Thank for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Brad Pickert, I am the senior partner in a family owned, three generation dairy farm, located here in Colorado.

I am here at the request of the Colorado Holstein Association. Holsteins are the breed of cattle that make-up 99% of the Colorado commercial dairy herds. Members here today with me are John Billing President, Bonnie Jones, George Maxey and Ashley Edstrom. I wish to speak against HB13-1231 (*prohibit routine dairy cattle tail docking*).

- 1) **Is this committee aware** that **Title 35, article 42, sections 107,8, 109**, is designed to investigate and possibly prosecute animal abuse, by *BAP* personnel? In fact in 2012 alone, **20,804** such investigations occurred, with only **47** of those being bovine, with no bovine impounds. There are at least **300,000 dairy animals** in Colorado. I have a copy of the most recent *BAP* report and will submit this with my report to your committee.
- 2) **I believe, as elected representatives** of the people of Colorado, your tasks here in the State Government are to preserve and protect the rights of all individuals and businesses. **Do you really think** that one management decision by one dairymen is worthy of a State law, governing **one** mans ability to manage his herd as he sees fit, especially when it really does not harm the populace? While doing this you **ignore** the docking of tails on dogs, sheep, and hogs, also you **ignore** such well known activities as cropping dogs ears and snipping out dogs vocal chords, so they can't bark, and cats are de-clawed to protect the furniture in homes. **Do you really think** it wise or fair to single out **one** person **one** act?
- 3) **Do you really think** that HSUS, a National animal rights activist organization under the direction of Mr. Wayne Pacelle should be telling the people of Colorado how **one** dairyman should be managing his dairy? **Don't you really know?** That you as legislators are being used by the HSUS to further their agenda. They would really like all of us to be **vegetarians** and to achieve their goals, HSUS uses, the "Rules For Radicals" by Saul Alinsky. Let me remind you those basic rules are to create a crises, which in turn will create the excitement to create and pass a law to take another step towards their goal. This doesn't sound like responsible government to me, rather it sounds like excessive government control. **Don't you really think** we already have too many laws?

4) On January 31, 2013 a special meeting was held. John Salazar, Colorado's Commissioner of Agriculture, Wayne Pacelle and a large group of invited Stakeholders were present to discuss tail docking. Wayne Pacelle was given respectfully the chance to speak without interruption, followed by a written question period. **Three times** during this question period John Salazar stood and respectfully made personal offers to Wayne Pacelle to sit down together and negotiate a solution. Three times Wayne Pacelle rejected the offers. In his words "**WE NEED A LAW**" for enforcement. "**WE NEED A LAW**" three times he said "**WE NEED A LAW**". Ladies and Gentlemen Wayne Pacelle is defeated unless he **HAS A LAW**. **Do you really think**, we the people, need another law? With that question, I conclude. Thank You For Your Attention

NOTE

BAP – Bureau of Animal Protection

# STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal Industry

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## Total Number of Investigations and Impounds by Species For Fiscal Years 2011 to 2012

County	(All)	Fiscal Year				2012		Total #Investigations Total #Impounds			
Species / Agency		2011		2012		Investigations #Impounds		Investigations #Impounds		Investigations #Impounds	
Avian		70	2	70	32	140	34	140	34	140	34
Bovine		32	0	47	0	79	0	79	0	79	0
Camelids		11	0	5	14	16	14	16	14	16	14
Canine		13,961	459	15,471	488	29,432	947	29,432	947	29,432	947
Caprine		55	1	52	9	107	10	107	10	107	10
Equine		1,636	16	2,861	205	4,497	221	4,497	221	4,497	221
Feline		1,257	263	1,421	144	2,678	407	2,678	407	2,678	407
Other		356	10	826	88	1,182	98	1,182	98	1,182	98
Ovine		8	0	48	8	56	8	56	8	56	8
Porcine		9	0	3	0	12	0	12	0	12	0
Grand Total		17,395	751	20,804	988	38,199	1,739	38,199	1,739	38,199	1,739